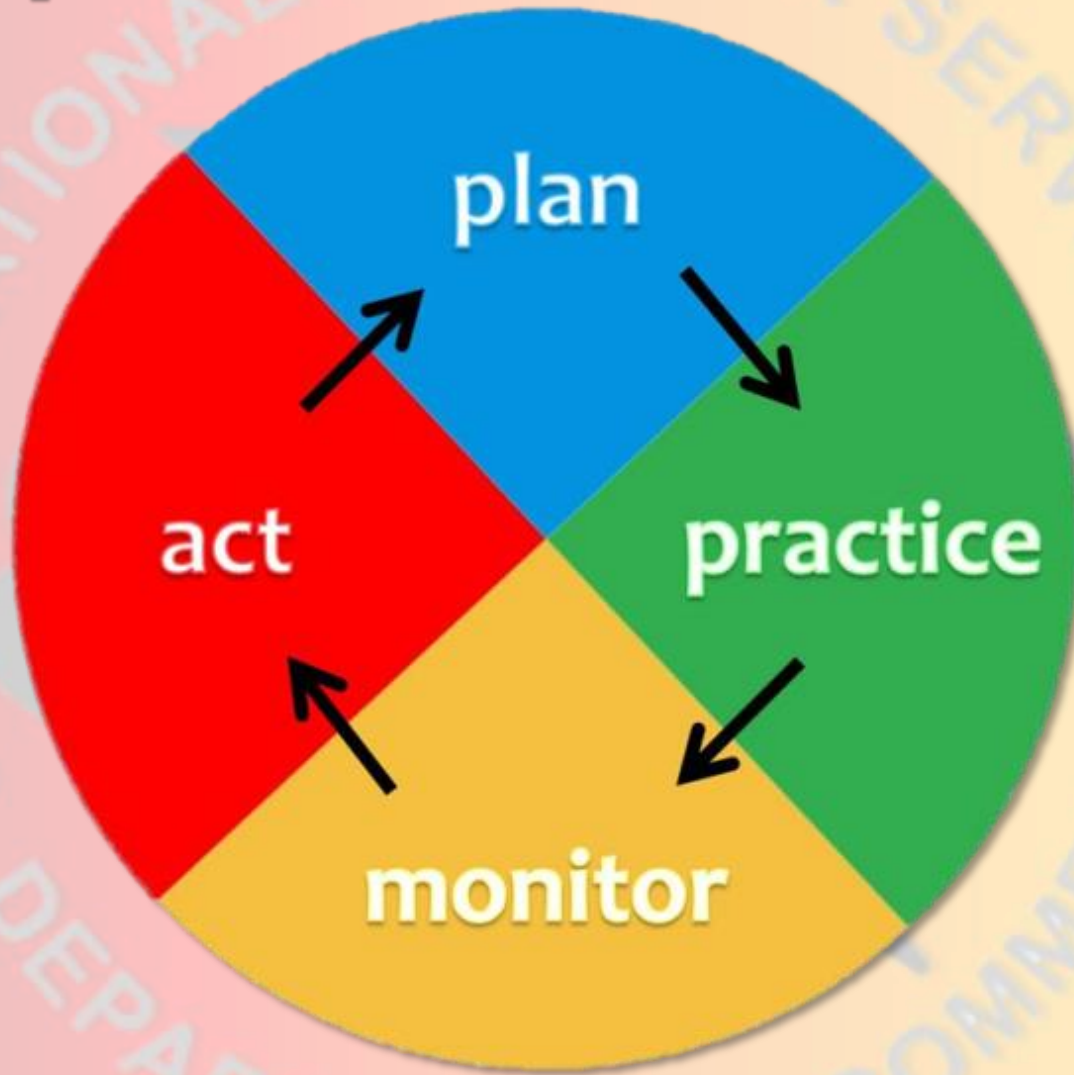


# Preparedness Framework



## for Severe Weather

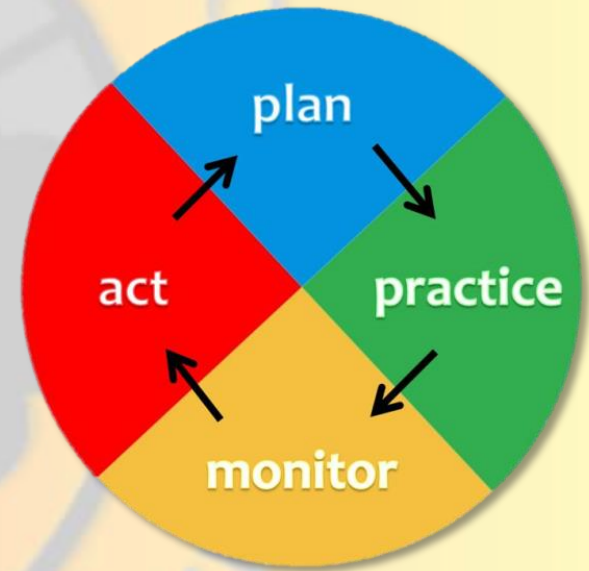
@NWSChicago



[weather.gov/Chicago](https://weather.gov/Chicago)

# PPMA

- **Plan**
  - Home, work, school, outdoor activities
  - Identify safe areas
  - Have a disaster kit
  - Know how to stay weather aware
- **Practice! Practice! Practice!**
- **Monitor**
  - Weather Watcher
  - Multiple ways to receive warnings
- **Act**
  - When severe weather threatens
  - Activate your plan!



@NWSChicago



[weather.gov/Chicago](https://weather.gov/Chicago)

# MAKE SURE YOU KNOW

## *Severe Weather Safety*

*This is a checklist of five basic things you should know about severe weather safety. Knowing this information and utilizing these tips should improve your chances of being safe if severe weather threatens. Be sure that you, and your family or coworkers, are familiar with everything on this list.*

- ☐ **Three Basic Things to Include in Your Severe Weather Safety Plan**
  - **Where to Shelter**
  - **How to Reach Each Other (*communication*)**
  - **Meet-up spot if You Get Separated**
- ☐ **Knowing Important Sources of Weather Information**
  - **NWS Chicago Weather Watcher Page**
  - **Watches and Warnings**
- ☐ **Have Multiple Ways to Get Weather Information**
- ☐ **Ensure Wireless Emergency Alerts are Enabled on Smartphone**
- ☐ **“Get In, Get Down, Cover Up”**

plan



**Self-Assessment: Can you check all five boxes?**



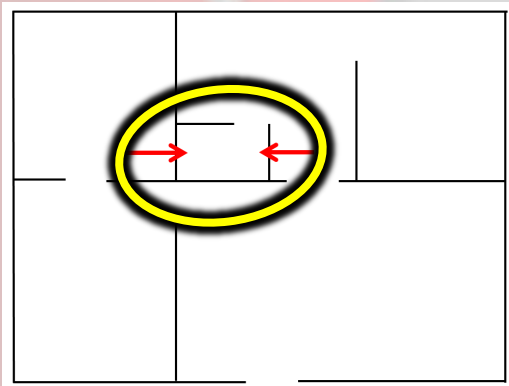
**@NWSChicago**

**Web: [weather.gov/Chicago](http://weather.gov/Chicago)**

# SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY PLAN

Three basic things everyone in your home or business should know...

## 1. Pick A Spot



*Find a safe normal sheltering location, and let everyone know that's where they should go during severe weather*

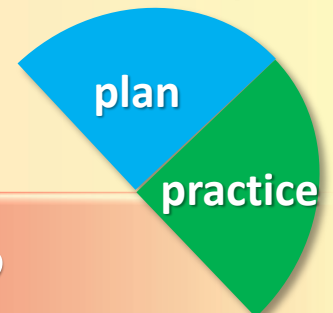
## 2. How To Get In Touch

*Everyone should know how to reach one another afterwards. In disasters, texting is often better than calling.*



## 3. Choose a "Meet Up Spot"

*It's a good idea to have a standard meet up spot that everyone knows.*



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Web: [weather.gov/Chicago](http://weather.gov/Chicago)



monitor

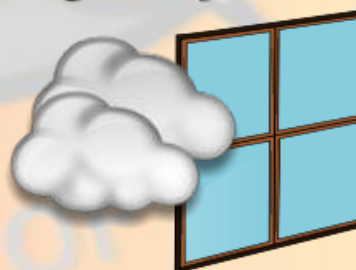
# Weather Watcher

- **Designate a Weather Watcher**
  - Checks forecast and monitors conditions when threatening weather is possible
  - Ideally has the authority to enact the severe weather plan or has direct contact with decision maker
  - Knowledgeable of forecast information
  - [www.weather.gov/chicago/wx\\_watcher](http://www.weather.gov/chicago/wx_watcher)



Monitoring information

Keeping an eye on the sky



# Key Pieces of Weather Info on Weather Watcher Page

monitor

What is the weather going to do?  
Do I need to be concerned?

## 1. Hazardous Weather Outlook

### Text

#### WEATHER HAZARDS EXPECTED:

THUNDERSTORMS...SOME MAY BE SEVERE AND PRODUCE:

LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL RESULTING IN LOCALIZED FLOODING.  
HAIL UP TO THE SIZE OF QUARTERS  
DAMAGING WINDS UP TO 70 MPH.  
FREQUENT CLOUD TO GROUND LIGHTNING.  
AND POSSIBLY AN ISOLATED TORNADO.

#### AREAS AFFECTED AND TIMING:

A COLD FRONT WILL SWEEP WEST TO EAST ACROSS NORTHERN ILLINOIS  
AND NORTHWEST INDIANA LATE THIS AFTERNOON THROUGH THE EVENING.

#### DISCUSSION:

A COLD FRONT WILL SWEEP THROUGH THE REGION THIS EVENING BRINGING  
PRIMARILY A THREAT FOR STRONG AND DAMAGING WINDS ALONG WITH A  
CONCERN FOR A TORNADO. AHEAD OF THE MAIN LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS...  
SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS ARE POSSIBLE LATE THIS AFTERNOON INTO THE  
EARLY EVENING. THE SEVERE WEATHER THREAT SHOULD DIMINISH QUICKLY  
BEHIND THE FRONT. IN ADDITION TO THE SEVERE WEATHER THREAT...SOME  
AREAS HAVE ALREADY SEEN HEAVY RAIN TODAY WITH SOILS SATURATED.  
ADDITIONAL HEAVY RAIN WILL QUICKLY BE CONVERTED TO RUNOFF WITH A  
CONCERN FOR AT LEAST LOCALIZED FLOODING.

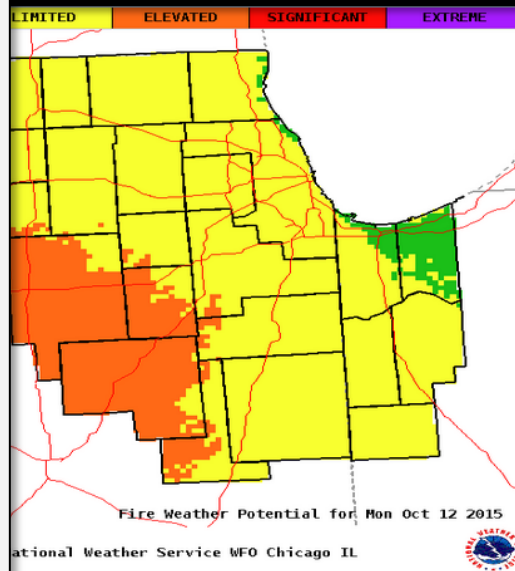
...DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...FRIDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY.

THERE IS A CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS LATE SUNDAY AFTERNOON INTO  
SUNDAY NIGHT...AND AGAIN TUESDAY NIGHT THROUGH THURSDAY.

...SPOTTER INFORMATION STATEMENT...

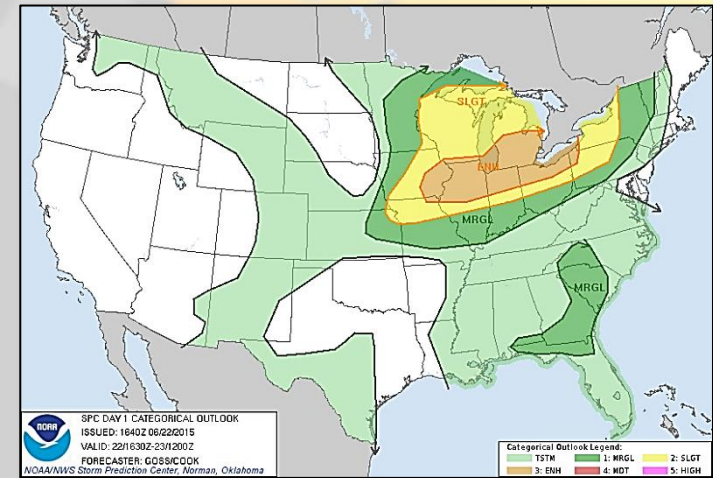
SPOTTER ACTIVATION WILL LIKELY BE NECESSARY THROUGH TONIGHT.

### Graphical

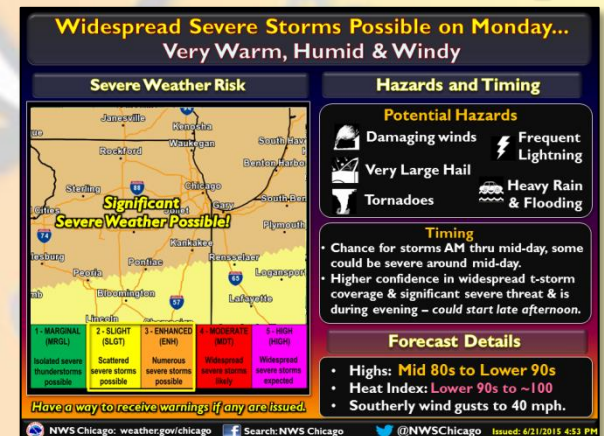


Click  
EHWO Tab

## 2. SPC Outlooks

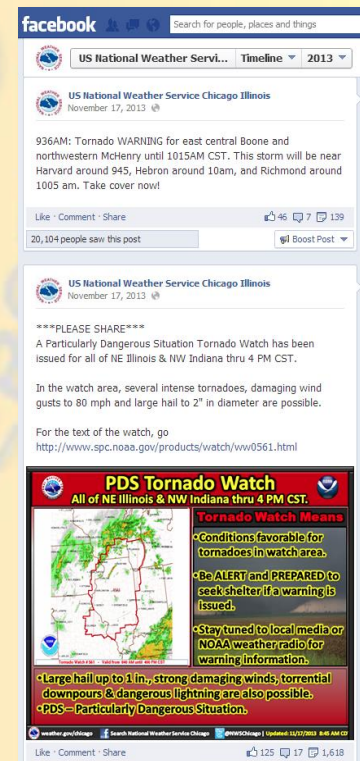


## 3. Weather Story



# NWS Chicago Social Media

- **Facebook, Twitter & YouTube**
- **Providing up to date information on Facebook & Twitter.**
- **Routine useful information, graphical displays and interaction.**
- **Caution: Frequency of updates posted to this feed may vary and followers should not rely on this service as their primary means of hazardous weather notification.**



monitor



# How to Make Sure You See Our Facebook Posts!

## 4 Steps You Can Take

### 1. Go to our Facebook Page Search: NWSChicago

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSChicago>

**PC  
&  
Mobile**

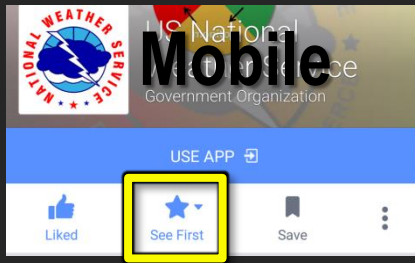
- ✓ Check directly on our page for updates before and during hazardous weather
- ✓ Refresh the page often

### 2. Find the Liked button

Change this setting  
from *Default* to **See First**



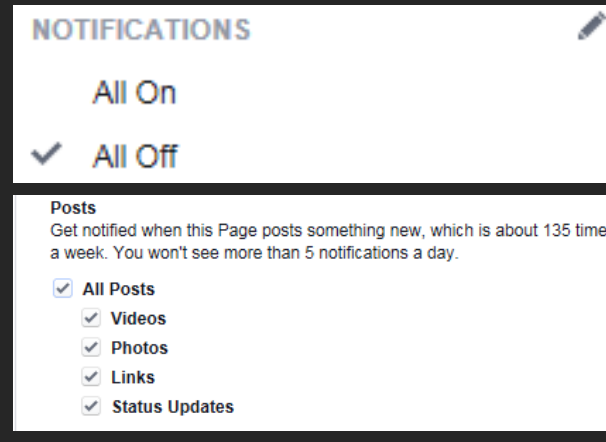
**PC**



**Mobile**

### 3. Find the Liked button

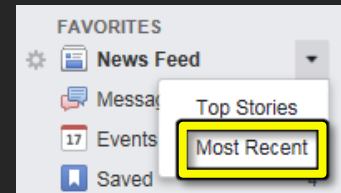
Change Notifications  
from *All Off* to settings below



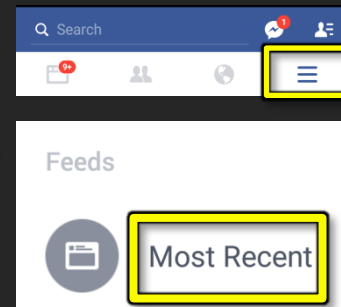
**On Personal Computer**

### 4. Set your News Feed to **Most Recent**

**PC**



**Mobile**



**NWSChicago**

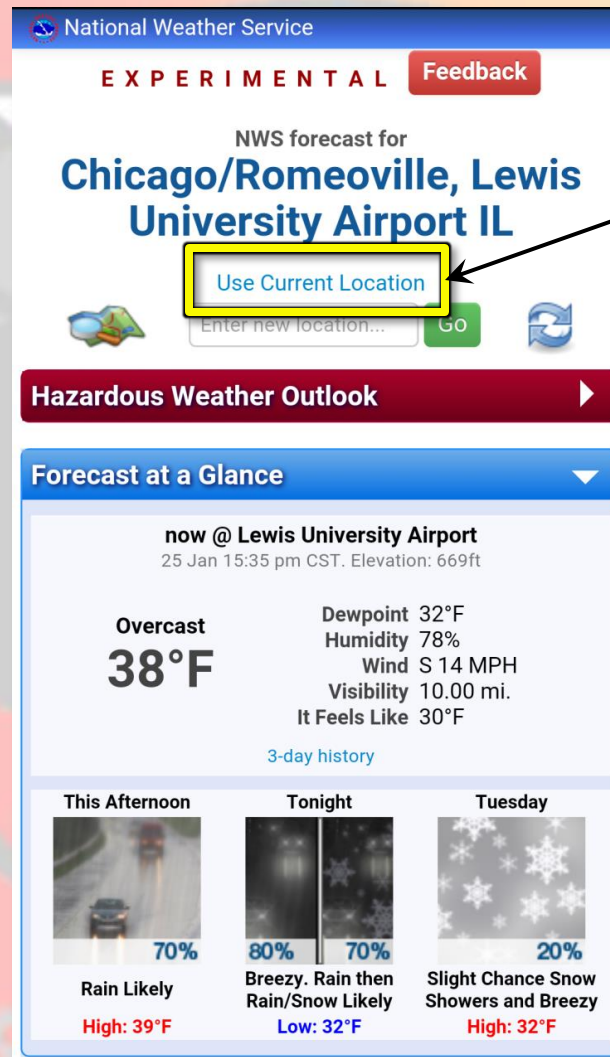
monitor



# Experimental Mobile Optimized Widget

The closest  
the NWS has  
to an app!

monitor



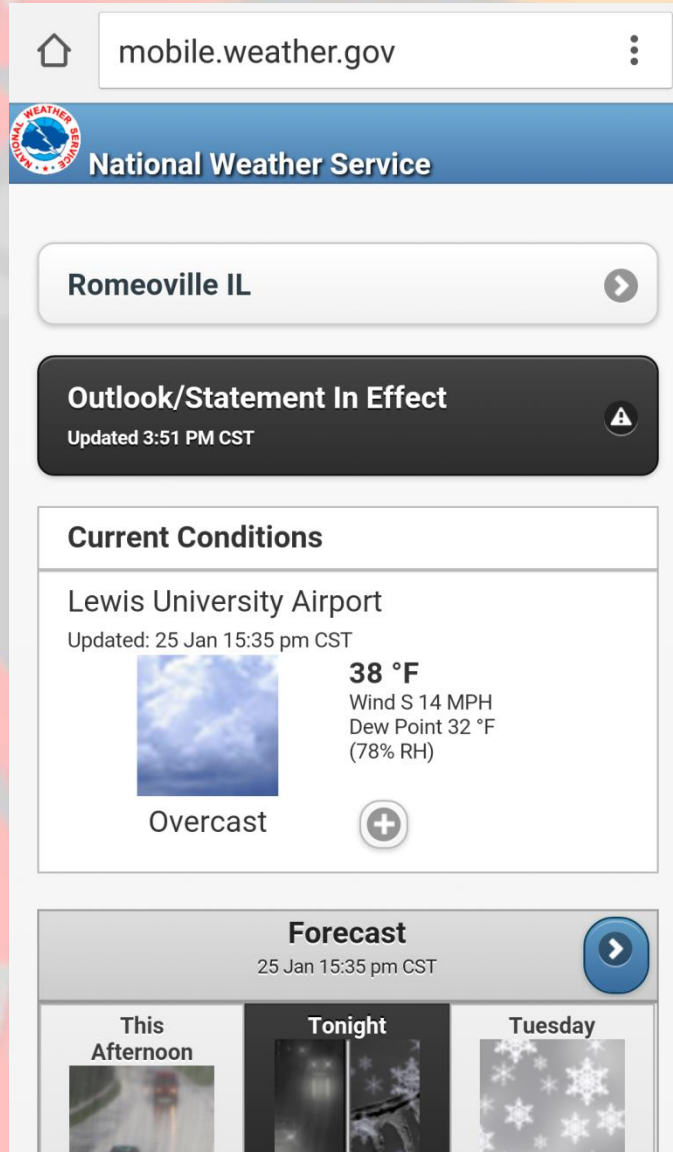
*Enable location  
on your device*

Set as icon on  
your home  
screen

<http://innovation.srh.noaa.gov/NWSwidget>

*Google NWS Widget*

# mobile.weather.gov



**Set as icon on  
your home  
screen**

monitor

# HOW THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DEFINES THUNDERSTORM STRENGTH



## GENERAL

- No hail
- Winds 45 mph or less



## STRONG

- Hail up to nickels
- Winds 45 to 57 mph
- Heavy downpours



## SEVERE

- Tornadoes
- Hail 1" or larger
- Winds 58 mph or greater



## SIGNIFICANT SEVERE

- Strong tornadoes
- Hail 2" or larger
- Winds 75 mph or greater



monitor

The NWS will only issue warnings when a thunderstorm is severe



# Understanding Severe Weather Outlooks

*Issued by the Storm Prediction Center*

monitor

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds to 40 mph</li> <li>• Small hail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds 40-60 mph</li> <li>• Hail up to 1"</li> <li>• Low tornado risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or two tornadoes</li> <li>• Reports of strong winds/wind damage</li> <li>• Hail ~1", isolated 2"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few tornadoes</li> <li>• Several reports of wind damage</li> <li>• Damaging hail, 1 - 2"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong tornadoes</li> <li>• Widespread wind damage</li> <li>• Destructive hail, 2" +</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tornado outbreak</li> <li>• Derecho</li> </ul>

Low Impact

Dangerous

Deadly



**Weather-Ready Nation**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**National Weather Service**  
[weather.gov/tornado](https://www.weather.gov/tornado)

**SPC Outlooks: Forecasts for organized severe thunderstorms over the U.S.**

monitor

# WATCH VS. WARNING

Do YOU know the difference?

You should be...

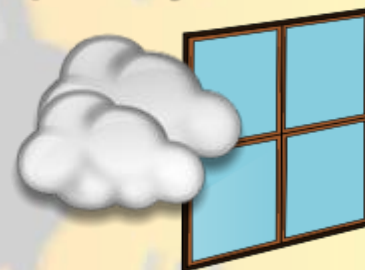
## WATCH

**BE ALERT.** Severe storms or tornadoes *MIGHT* form and affect your area.



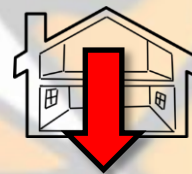
Monitoring information

Keep an eye on the sky



## WARNING

**TAKE ACTION!** A severe storm or tornado is expected in your area.



**ACT IMMEDIATELY. GET IN,  
GET DOWN, AND COVER UP.**



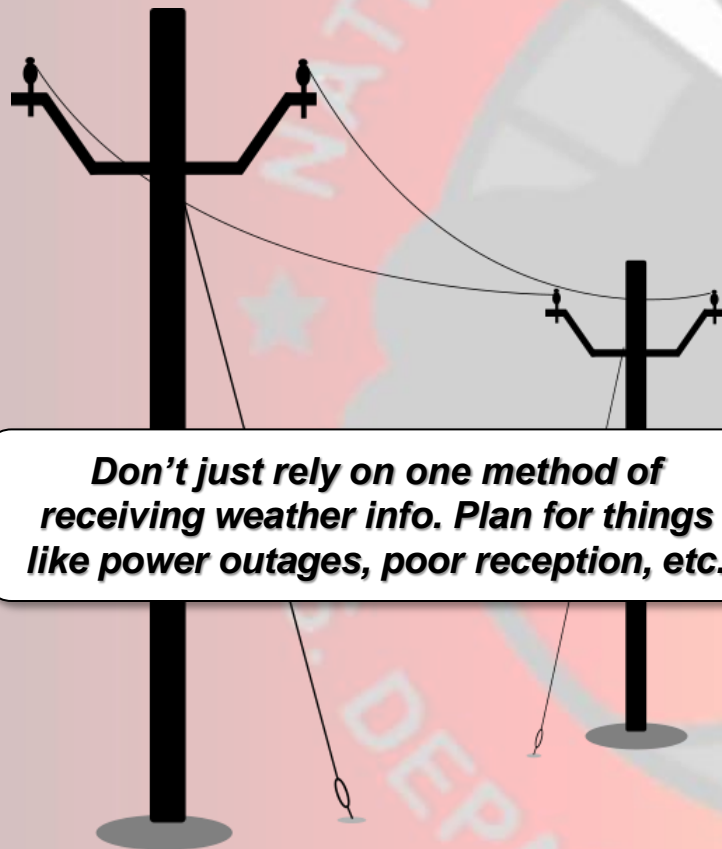
@NWSChicago

Web: [weather.gov/Chicago](http://weather.gov/Chicago)



monitor

# HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS TO GET WEATHER INFO



**Battery  
powered  
radio**



**Internet**



**Phone**



**Television**



**NOAA  
Weather  
Radio**



**@NWSChicago**

**Web: [weather.gov/Chicago](http://weather.gov/Chicago)**

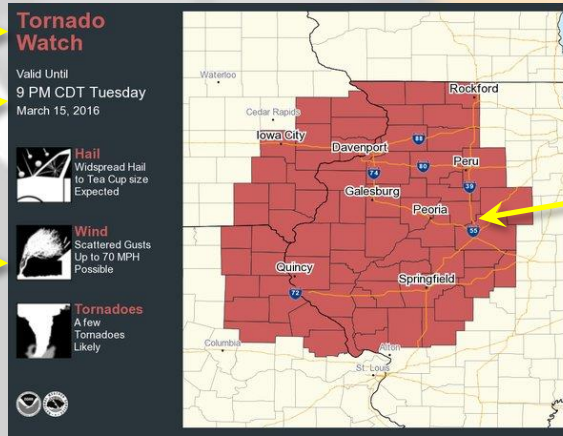


# Convective Watches and Warnings on Twitter

## *New Look for 2016*

### What Watches Look Like

**Watch Type**  
**Watch Valid Time and Date**  
**Potential Hazards in Watch Area**

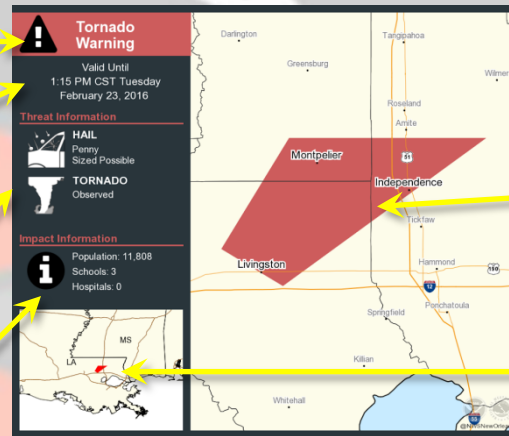


**Counties and Cities in Watch**

monitor

### What Warnings Will Look Like

**Warning Type**  
**Warning Valid Time and Date**  
**Expected Hazards in Warning Area**  
**Impact Information**



**Area and Cities in Warning**

**Overview Map**

***Watches & Warnings Will Post Automatically to***



**@NWSChicago**

# IS YOUR PHONE WEA READY?

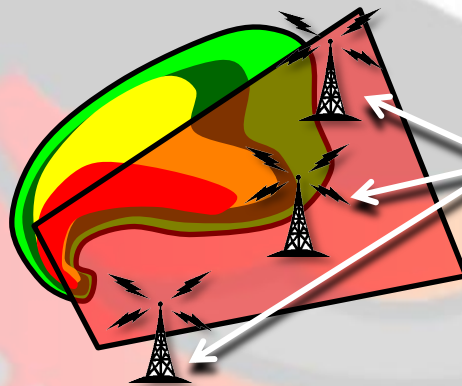
**WEA is...**  
**Wireless**  
**Emergency**  
**Alert**

- *Automatic, text-like message informing you of dangerous situations*
- *No charges to receive a WEA message*
- *WEA messages have a special tone and vibration*



Check to see  
if your phone is  
WEA-Capable

**Go to...**  
**[www.ctia.org/wea](http://www.ctia.org/wea)**



**If you...**

- ✓ Have WEA messages enabled
- ✓ And are by a cell tower covering a Tornado Warning polygon

*You will automatically receive message telling you of a Tornado Warning.*



**@NWSChicago**

**Web: [weather.gov/Chicago](http://weather.gov/Chicago)**

**monitor**

# NOAA Weather Radio

***"Why would you live in the bullseye of severe weather without one?"***

**Receive weather information  
24-hours a day**

**Radio will sound a loud  
alarm to alert you when a  
watch or warning has been  
issued for YOUR county**

**[weather.gov/lot/NWR](http://weather.gov/lot/NWR)**

**monitor**





# When a **TORNADO WARNING** is Issued

## “Get In, Get Down, Cover Up”

### 1. Get In

*Get into a sturdy building and put as many walls between you and the outside as possible.*



### 2. Get Down

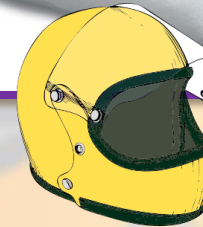
*Get as low in the building as possible – the basement or the lowest floor.*



act

### 3. Cover Up

*Flying and falling debris are a storm's number one killer. Use pillows, blankets, helmets, etc. to cover up and protect yourself.*



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Web: [weather.gov/Chicago](http://weather.gov/Chicago)



# We Have A Plan Too!

- **Neighboring offices can provide back-up**
- **Reinforced shelter**
- **Routine practice**
- **Executed plan 8/18/2015**







# We Practice What We Advocate!



**Tornado Warning included  
NWS Chicago office on 8/18/15**

**Circulation went directly  
over NWS Chicago office!**



*Photo from Danny Neal  
© Romeoville/Crest Hill Area*

SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO/ROMEOVILLE IL  
ISSUED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LINCOLN IL  
729 PM CDT TUE AUG 18 2015

ILC197-190045-  
/O.CON.KLOT.TO.W.0035.000000T0000Z-150819T0045Z/  
WILL-  
729 PM CDT TUE AUG 18 2015

...A TORNADO WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 745 PM CDT FOR  
NORTHWESTERN WILL COUNTY...

AT 728 PM CDT...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM CAPABLE OF PRODUCING A TORNADO  
WAS LOCATED OVER ROMEOVILLE...MOVING NORTHEAST AT 30 MPH.

HAZARD...TORNADO.

SOURCE...RADAR INDICATED ROTATION.

IMPACT...FLYING DEBRIS WILL BE DANGEROUS TO THOSE CAUGHT WITHOUT  
SHELTER. MOBILE HOMES WILL BE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED. DAMAGE

- Backup procedures implemented in **SECONDS**.
- NWS Lincoln updated Tornado Warning while NWS Chicago staff took cover in tornado shelter.
- After it was safe, normal operations returned at NWS Chicago.



# More Information

- **NWS Chicago Severe Preparedness Page**  
[www.weather.gov/chicago/severeprep](http://www.weather.gov/chicago/severeprep)
- **Make a plan**  
[www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)
- **Basic disaster supplies kit**  
[www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit)
- **NWS Chicago Weather Watcher Page**  
[www.weather.gov/chicago/wx\\_watcher](http://www.weather.gov/chicago/wx_watcher)
- **WRN Ambassador**  
[www.weather.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html](http://www.weather.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html)



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